

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEL AV 00391 101354Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----105886 101357Z /47
O 101305Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0471

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 0391

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, EG, IS, XF
SUBJECT: MUBARAK'S REQUEST FOR BEGIN' STATEMENT ON SETTLEMENTS

REF: A) TEL AVIV 0289, B) CAIRO 0684, C) CAIRO 0739,
D) CAIRO 0752, E) CAIRO 00870

1. AUTHORITATIVE OFFICIAL TRANSLATION INTO ENGLISH OF
BEGIN'S STATEMENT TO THE HERUT CENTRAL COMMITTEE SUNDAY
NIGHT, JANUARY 8, HAS JUST BEEN PROVIDED TO US BY THE
PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. THE KEY SECTION DEALING WITH
SETTLEMENTS ABOUT WHICH MUBARAK WAS CONCERNED FOLLOWS
IN PARA TWO.

2. TEXT: QUOTE: I SAID TO PRESIDENT SADAT: WE
RESPECT YOUR PRINCIPLES AND WE TRUST THAT YOU WILL
RESPECT OURS. AND OUR PRINCIPLE IS, IN THE LIGHT OF
OUR GENERATION'S EXPERIENCE, NOT TO LEAVE ANY JEWISH
SETTLEMENT WITHOUT AN ISRAELI DEFENSE FORCE, AND THEY
WILL BE LINKED TO THE STATE OF ISRAEL'S COURTS AND
ADMINISTRATION. THIS IS A COMPROMISE PROPOSAL THAT IS
FAIR AND IS SUPPORTED BY THE U.S. AND GREAT BRITAIN.
IT IS CLEAR THAT THIS IS OUR PROPOSAL. IF THE EGYPTIAN
DELEGATION REJECTS IT, IT IS FEASIBLE THAT THE GOI
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WILL THEN DECIDE TO INSTRUCT (ITS DELEGATION) IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE GREAT PRINCIPLE OF INTERNATIONAL
LAW WHICH SAYS: IF ONE PARTY PRESENTS A PROPOSAL
PRELIMINARY TO DISCUSSIONS ON A PEACE TREATY, AND THE
OTHER SIDE DOES NOT ACCEPT IT, THEN THE FIRST PARTY
HAS THE RIGHT TO DECLARE THAT ITS PROPOSAL IS NO LONGER
VALID A PRIORI, IN WHICH CASE THE ISRAELI DELEGATION

WOULD HAVE THE RIGHT, IF THE GOVERNMENT SO DECIDES,
TO INSIST UPON THE DEMAND FOR TERRITORIAL CHANGES IN
THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES, IN KEEPING WITH INTER-
NATIONAL LAW. END QUOTE

3. BEGIN TELEPHONED ME THIS MORNING TO ASK THAT
AMBASSADOR EILTS CONVEY THIS TEXT PROMPTLY TO MUBARAK
AS REQUESTED. THEN ASKED THAT WE MAKE SURE MUBARAK UNDER-
STANDS WHAT HE DID NOT RPT NOT SAY OR MEAN TO SAY.
(BEGIN HAS HEARD RADIO REPORTS FROM CAIRO WHICH ALLEGED
THAT HE HAD SAID "UNLESS THE EGYPTIANS ACCEPT OUR
PROPOSAL THEN WE SHALL CANCEL OUR PEACE OFFER." BEGIN
POINTED OUT THAT A CAREFUL READING OF HIS STATEMENT
WOULD LEAVE NO SUCH PROPER INTERPRETATION. THERE IS
NO CONSIDERATION OF CANCELLING THE WHOLE ISRAELI PEACE
PROPOSAL. RATHER WHAT IS INVOLVED IS A SPECIFIC ELEMENT
OF THE PROPOSAL DEALING WITH A NARROW ISSUE, THE STATUS
OF THE JEWISH SETTLEMENTS IN THE SINAI. HE IS POINTING
TO WHAT HE SAYS IS A UNIVERSALLY UNDERSTOOD PRINCIPLE
IN INTERNATIONAL LAW: TO WIT, THAT IN A NEGOTIATION,
IF ONE PARTY MAKES A CERTAIN PROPOSAL AND THE OTHER
PARTY UNEQUIVOCALLY REJECTS IT, THE FIRST PARTY HAS
EVERY RIGHT TO WITHDRAW IT FROM THE TABLE AS IF IT HAD
NOT EXISTED AND TO PROPOSE SOME ALTERNATE FORMULA FOR
THE ISSUE INVOLVED.

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4. BEGIN THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WANTED THE U.S.
TO KNOW, NOT RPT NOT TO BE CONVEYED TO THE EGYPTIANS,
THAT IF THE EGYPTIANS FOLLOWED THE TEXT WHICH WAS
HERALDED IN SADAT'S AND MUBARAK'S STATEMENTS AND
DEMANDED THAT ALL ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS BE REMOVED FROM
EGYPTIAN SOIL REGARDLESS, THEN HE WOULD INDEED WITHDRAW
THAT PORTION OF HIS PROPOSAL WHICH DEALT WITH THE
SETTLEMENTS AND PROPOSE IN ITS PLACE CHANGES IN THE
INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY TO PERMIT THE SETTLEMENTS TO
REMAIN.

5. I TOLD BEGIN WE WOULD TRANSMIT THE TEXT AND HIS
CLARIFICATION OF WHAT HE HAD NOT RPT NOT SAID TO
MUBARAK AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
LEWIS

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